

MINUTES
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
September 28, 2009
7:00 P.M.

Present: Tom Costley, Chairman, Jane B. Allen, Thomas E. Sheldon

Absent: David A. Rempell, Ronald Turbin

Others Present: Habitat Board Members Jack Madden, Pam Turton, Mary Morrison and Paul Austin, Kathy Poirot, Peter Fohlin

- 1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:** Mr. Costley announced the second annual Williamstown Community Chest Fun Run was held on Saturday, September 26 and was held this year to honor the life of Don Westall who was a longtime supporter and past board member of the Community Chest. The event was a huge success with over 170 runners and walkers participating in the 1 mile or 5K distances. The glorious weather indicated Donny Westall was smiling on organizers and participants as the multi-generational gathering met its goal: creating community. Huge thanks go to head organizer Jill Strawbridge and WCC director Anne Singleton. This event kicks off the WCC's 83rd annual campaign. With a goal of \$250,000, all campaign contributions go directly to the sixteen member agencies of the WCC.
- 2. SELECTMEN'S MINUTES:** Regular: September 14, 2009 – Ms. Allen moved to approve the regular September 14, 2009 minutes. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously;

Executive Session: September 14, 2009 – Ms. Allen moved to approve the executive session minutes of September 14, 2009. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- 3. PUBLIC HEARING: 7:05 pm -** for an application from Eleven at MOCA, Inc., d/b/a Mezze Events, for an All Alcohol Beverage Restaurant License at 777 Cold Spring Road, Nancy C. Thomas, Manager. Mr. Costley opened the public hearing at 7:05 p.m. Mr. Fohlin stated that Ms. Thomas has withdrawn her liquor license application without prejudice due to discussions before this hearing regarding current plans for her business which do not qualify for a restaurant or innkeeper license because she is not planning to serve food and alcohol maintain regular hours or rent out rooms yet. She is working with this office and the ABCC to determine what type of license she should apply for. Mr. Costley closed the public hearing. No action was taken.

4. LICENSES & PERMITS:

A. President and Trustees of Williams College, Robert Volpi, Manager Request for Four One-Day Wine & Malt Liquor Licenses for College Football Home Games at Weston Field Hospitality Beverage Concession, from 12-4, Service to End at the End of the Third Quarter:

Saturday, October 10, Saturday, October 24, Saturday, October 31, and Saturday, November 13, 2009. Ms. Allen moved to approve the four one-day wine & malt liquor licenses as requested. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Request from Kelly's Package Store Inc, 653 Main St., Dalton, John Kelly, President, for a One-Day Wine & Malt License for a Williams College Senior Class

Dance under a Tent in the Greylock Quad on October 3, 2009 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Ms. Allen moved to approve the request from Kelly's Package Store Inc, 653 Main St., Dalton, for a One-Day Wine & Malt License for a Williams College Senior Class Dance under a Tent in the Greylock Quad on October 3, 2009 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Allen asked that Ms. Poirot speak with Mr. Kelly reinforcing the necessity to be vigilant since Mr. Kelly does not live or work regularly in a college town.

5. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN'S CONSIDERATION:

- A. Danaher Property Auction** – Mr. Fohlin, in a memo to the selectmen, explained that the Town foreclosed on the Danaher House at 37 Main Street in 2007 due to outstanding taxes, water/sewer charges and fees. Since then additional maintenance costs have accrued in addition to interest with a total outstanding liability of \$18,784.01 as of September 21, 2009. An unsuccessful auction with one bidder occurred January 28, 2009. The house requires substantial renovation due to years of minimal maintenance and vandalism. All the copper plumbing has been stolen. Mr. Fohlin asked that the selectmen place an affordability restriction on the sale of the property so that the property can be auctioned by the Collector with a high likelihood that Habitat for Humanity or a similar affordable housing community organization will purchase the house to make it a home.

Mr. Sheldon moved that the Board of Selectmen direct the Collector to auction, subject to a reserve price determined by the Collector, the property taken for taxes at 37 Main Street, a/k/a "Danaher property" for sale to a non-profit affordable housing organization for the purpose of conveyance to an individual or family whose income is 50% or less of the area median income for Berkshire County as determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- B. Short Term Borrowing \$827,000** – Mr. Fohlin explained that the Town has received Chapter 90 grant awards that are reimbursable in nature, meaning that money must be spent and reimbursement requested before grant proceeds are received. In the interim, to provide funds for expenditure, communities are authorized to borrow in anticipation of receiving grant proceeds. Selectmen were asked if they will sign the notes as presented for Chapter 90 highway grants awarded to the Town and used for the renovation of Field Park. Since the project has just been completed the Town anticipates requesting reimbursement within the next few weeks. The borrowing is for a term of three months to allow sufficient time for review and processing of our reimbursement request. Mr. Sheldon moved that selectmen sign the borrowing documents as presented. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- C. United Nations Day Proclamation** – Mr. Sheldon read the United Nations Day Proclamation. Ms. Allen moved selectmen sign the proclamation. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- D. State Ethics Commission Liaison** – Ms. Allen moved to designate Town Clerk Mary Kennedy as liaison to the State Ethics Commission. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- E. Water and Sewer Warrant - \$202,881.94** – Ms. Allen moved to approve the water and sewer warrant in the amount of \$202,881.94. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

6. PETITIONER'S REQUEST: None

7. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: See attached.

8. OTHER BUSINESS: Ms. Allen asked about the Library Renovations. Mr. Fohlin stated that the Library Design project is to turn the basement into useable space. Mr. Sheldon added that the design is being paid for largely by a State grant. The design will be rendered in stages to enable the basement renovations to be completed first as part of a long-term plan. That plan will include other substantial changes in the future to reorganize space on the main floor such as more space for books and materials.

Mr. Sheldon said he read about the Chapin Hall stage issue where there was a finding of non-compliance which would have affect the programming of the 09-10 academic year. Mr. Fohlin said this in not a new finding and that Building Inspector Mike Card has been making the College aware of this issue for several years and they have pushed the limit from time to time. This particular issue as he understands it is that the College built an extension to the stage which added to the problem of non-conformance.

Mr. Costley read a thank you note sent by Ed Scofield to the Town Manager and the Public Works department for expert work dealing with overall flooding on Northwest Hill Road. He also said he likes how the new rotary looks and works.

9. ADJOURN: Ms. Allen moved to adjourn at 7:50p.m. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The next Selectmen Meeting is Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas E. Sheldon,
Secretary